



Lesson Goal:

For you to further your understanding and experience --

- ⇒ the “passive” righteousness of faith
- ⇒ the areas in your life where you “let the rules get over your conscience”
- ⇒ how you would like the truth of justification by faith to impact your life in a practical way



1. Listen to or watch the Lesson 3 talk.

Use the following transcript of the talk while you listen or watch.

The Passive Righteousness of God

Josiah Bancroft

“I stand before God righteous, not because of what I have done, but because of what Someone else has done.”

I. INTRODUCTION- THE TONGUE ASSIGNMENT

1
2 As we start this talk on the active and passive righteousness (sometimes we call it the
3 passive righteousness of God) I need to make an assignment for you. It’s in the book, [Sonship
4 Manual 2.9] but I want to encourage you to use the tongue assignment and it will transform this
5 into the nicest group you have ever seen in very short order. Let me remind you of what that
6 assignment is. It says for one week do not do any of the following: do not gossip or spread a bad
7 report, even in prayer (that’s my favorite place); do not complain; do not blame shift (even if
8 you’re married); do not defend yourself and do not boast. Now I know I’ve probably taken away
9 your best licks; I know I’ve lost mine. But I trust you realize that this is not just a made-up
10 assignment. These things are really commanded in God’s word [Matthew 12:36-37; Ephesians
11 4:29; James 1:26] and what I’m asking you to do is bend every effort to see if you can do them
12 this week. And by the way let’s add— those are all the negative stuff; let’s add the positive
13 things: you need to witness, to affirm and encourage others, and to constantly express thanks and
14 praise.

15 I had the privilege of giving this assignment to a group of Siberians one year. Hunter

16 Dockery and I had taken a trip to work with some church planters in places like Novosibirsk,
17 Barnaul, Kemerovo and Tomsk, in Siberia, and it was a great time. He and I both went together,
18 for two different Januaries we spent in Siberia with a group of Russian pastors there. I still
19 remember the man. I believe his name was Ivan (that's spelled I-v-a-n); that's the way they
20 would pronounce Ivan. Ivan was about three quarters of the way back on my right side in this
21 little room in Barnaul, and when I gave this assignment, I saw that he was a fairly determined
22 fellow. And he was one of these men that was a quiet leader. You would see other people
23 gathered around him. Well, toward the end of the week when everybody returned, I asked the
24 question, "Has anybody kept this assignment?" And Ivan was looking pretty smug. He looked
25 like the cat that got the cream. You know what I mean? He had that quiet smile of confidence
26 about him. And they were all looking at him and smiling and nodding and I said, "Well Ivan, did
27 you do it?" And he said "Yes, I kept it." I said, "Ivan you are the first guy that I have ever met
28 and kept it. How did you do it?" He said, "I have not spoken until this moment." And I said,
29 "Well that's very good Ivan, but I want you to remember that was just half the assignment. What
30 about the positive things?" And he laughed and we laughed. And the point of the assignment is to
31 show you your need for Christ, for a righteousness that is not your own. I trust it will be a help.
32 And also a blessing to your family as you struggle with it.

33 **II. FOUR DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS**

34 I want to turn our attention to a couple of questions that will set up our looking at the
35 righteousness of Christ, our active and passive righteousness. I think two of these questions you
36 have already heard. If you were to die tonight and stand before God, do you know for certain that
37 He would take you into heaven? Have you heard that question before? I bet several of you have
38 been trained by EE [Evangelism Explosion]. And I use it frequently in evangelism. The second
39 question is like unto it, isn't it? If you were to stand before God tonight and He were to say to
40 you, Jeff, Suzie, Fred, why should I take you into my heaven, what do you think you would say to
41 Him? Now those are two helpful questions and, by the way, if you have any doubts about the
42 answer to them, we'd love to talk to you about it. But those are pretty helpful diagnostic
43 questions. Why? The first one tells us if there is assurance in a person's life. The second tells us
44 what the ground of that assurance is.

45 I believe there are two other questions that you ought to ask yourself from time to time.
46 The first one of those is this: what does God think of you right now? As Jesus is ruling in heaven,
47 and as He turns His attention from the course of the planets and conducting the world and looks
48 at your life, what does He think of you right now? What is His attitude towards you? We could
49 even ask: what is the expression on His face as He contemplates you and your life? And the

50 second question is like it: what can you do to change that? What can you do to change His
51 opinion of you? I think that these two questions point us in a direction that will be helpful as we
52 look at our active and passive righteousness. The truth of the matter is that unless you believe
53 that Christ has done enough for you, it is going to be very difficult for you to emotionally answer
54 those questions in an honest way.

55 The reason I ask them is, I believe that in the Christian life, God is our Father. But if I
56 were to try and suppose what the real character of God is by looking at the life of most
57 Christians, I'd have to tell you, my opinion of Him as a Father would be pretty awful. For some,
58 if they were the only thing I knew of the Fatherhood of God, I would think that He was distant,
59 harsh, never to be pleased. For others, I'd think He was downright abusive because of the kind of
60 wrong fears that they have of God. Some of you have been pastors like I have been for years, and
61 you know what it is to go into a home and to see children who at the return of the father into that
62 home are frightened in a wrong way of him. And you know what it's like to wonder what goes on
63 in that home. And I often think that as people come into the churches and they hear what our
64 lives say, even more than our mouths, they must wonder, what kind of God is it that we serve?
65 So far away, so difficult to please, so promising of heaven yet so distant in this world. What kind
66 of God do we serve? At least, what do our lives say about the God that we serve?

57 **III. TWO KINDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

68 My heart before God needs some assurance and I think that understanding what the
69 passive righteousness of God is about can give my heart assurance before Him. Let's turn
70 together to Romans chapter 3, and as we do, I want to point out that when we use these words,
71 active and passive righteousness, all I'm doing is really quoting Martin Luther from the
72 declaration that he uses as a preface to his commentary on Galatians¹. And that's printed in your
73 manuals [page 2.10]. I would encourage you to read it. Sometimes people get confused and think
74 I'm speaking about the active and passive obedience of Christ. That's not what we're speaking
75 of. You remember, theologically Christ's active obedience are those things that He did; His
76 passive obedience is what He suffered in our place. Now we'll refer to those. That's not what we
77 mean by active and passive righteousness. What we really mean by that is that there's two kinds
78 of righteousness. That there's a righteousness that you make or create by yourself or with God's
79 help but it's your righteousness. And there's another righteousness that comes from God. There's

¹Martin Luther. *Commentary on Galatians* (Kregel Publications: Grand Rapids, MI, 1979), p. xi-xviii. See also *Luther: Lectures on Romans* (The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1961). See also *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, ed. by Timothy F. Lull (Augsburg Press: Minneapolis, MN, 1989), especially the chapter entitled "Two Kinds of Righteousness."

80 a righteousness that you actively manufacture and there's a righteousness that you receive. And
81 this is Biblical language.

82 **A. Passive Righteousness**

83 Let's look at Romans 3, verse 21. **"But now a righteousness from God,"** --now you
84 notice where this passive righteousness comes from-- **"a righteousness from God, apart from**
85 **law,"**-- that is apart from active duty and fulfilling the call of the law-- **"a righteousness from**
86 **God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify.**
87 **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Christ Jesus to all who believe."** Romans

88 3:21-22 In other words, there is a righteousness that comes to us by faith-- a righteousness where I
89 receive it passively. Luther says we receive it like the ground receives the rain. What does the
90 ground do to get rain? Kind of lies there doesn't it? It's fairly passive. It doesn't do a whole lot.
91 Now faith does have activity but in this righteousness we receive it-- passively. It is
92 righteousness given to me, given by faith. It is righteousness that does not come from me. It
93 comes from God. **"But now a righteousness from God apart from law has been made known**
94 **to which the law and the prophets testify."** Romans 3:21

95 Before I am a Christian I need the righteousness of Christ to justify me. And I rest in that
96 righteousness. And if I were to say to you, "It's Christ plus your good works that get you to
97 heaven," I hope you would shout me down and say "No it's not." What is it that gets you into
98 heaven? (It's a real question. You can answer it.) What is it that gets you into heaven? It's
99 Christ's righteousness alone, isn't it? And it's your faith in Him alone; Jesus plus nothing, is that
100 right? What is the ground for your walk with God for the rest of your life? Are you saved by faith
101 but continue in another way? Although works and good deeds must be an evidence of faith, I'm
102 here to tell you that the way we continue is the same way we started. It's not that I have some
103 vague hope of mercy that heaven is a free gift but the rest of my Christian life is some type of a
104 church purgatory where heaven is a free gift but God is displeased and distant and angry with me
105 always for the rest of my life. And I tell you Christians live like that. They live like God is angry
106 with them all of the time. And only angry with them. And they don't know what to do about that.
107 They don't know how to move into obedience, they don't know how to get their conscience out
108 from under the curse of the law. They are trapped in the fact that when they look at their lives,
109 they know they don't measure up. And all they can see in heaven is an angry God. And so what
110 they hope to do is just do the best they can until they get to the end of their days and know that
111 Jesus will get them into heaven. But between now and then, it's a tough time.

112 Well, we do have a struggle, brothers and sisters. But I want you to know that in this life I
113 have now a righteousness that is not my own. And it's not just effective for heaven. But it bears a

114 fruit now in my life. Today I stand before you righteous. Do you believe that? My acts are not
115 perfect. I struggle. But I stand before God, and in your presence, I stand before God righteous;
116 not because of what I have done but because of what someone else has done. And that's been a
117 very difficult thing for my heart to get itself around. Now my head came pretty quick. I could say
118 that forever. And really part of what we are talking about here is the difference between your
119 head theology and your heart theology. I know that as I go through these very familiar passages,
120 you can recognize every one of them. And you can say yup, yup, yup, yup; know that one, know
121 that one, memorized that one, memorized that one, taught that one, wrote the book on this one,
122 have lectured extensively at Harvard on these. I know you know them here... [in your head]. But
123 I'm asking you what flows from your life? What flows from your heart in terms of affection and
124 response to God? What is your heart theology? That will say more than anything else. Let me ask
125 you, what does God think of you today? Your answer to that may begin to expose your heart
126 theology. And what can you do about that? Your answer will show part of what righteousness
127 you may be trusting other than Jesus. **"But now a righteousness from God apart from law has**
128 **been made known to which the law and the prophets testify."** ^{Romans 3:21} When I trust in the
129 righteousness of Christ, it's not as if I have some vague hope that God may receive me. But as I
130 turn from my sins and I trust in Christ's righteousness for me, I know that can be received from
131 God, by God. How does this work?

32 I think we forget that there are two parts to the gospel. Jesus really did two things for me.
133 Let's use this pen to illustrate the record of my life. And we know and are pretty clear about the
134 idea that Christ died for my sins. He led the perfect life that deserved no punishment. I have this
135 terrible record. So what did God do? On the cross He transferred my record to Christ and
136 punished Him in my place so that by faith my sins were paid for by Christ on the cross. Most
137 people would understand that and that's the gospel isn't it?

138 But there's a second part to the gospel that we sometimes forget. And that is that Jesus
139 had a record too, didn't He? A perfect record. And when I believe, that perfect record is
140 transferred to my account legally so that my legal record before God is perfect. Does the Bible
141 teach that? I think it does. Look at Romans chapter 4, verse 3. **"Abraham believed God, and it**
142 **was credited to him as. . ."** *forgiveness*. Thank you: **"righteousness."** Why did I say
143 *forgiveness*? Because that's the way my heart acts. And I want you to know there is a difference
144 between forgiveness and righteousness. You know, go for the gold. Don't settle for the second
145 place.

146 Now let me tell you. Forgiveness is a great thing but righteousness is even better. Bill,
147 you ever have an argument with your wife? (Bill: "Once in a while.") Once in a while. An
148 honest man. Thank you. In that argument, let me ask you, would you rather be forgiven or right?

149 (Bill: "I'd rather be right.") Now, here is truly an honest man. If I'd picked a pastor, we
150 would've had a fist fight. Because he would've wanted to say "Oh, I'd rather be forgiven," and
151 you want to go down and just throttle him. No, the reason you are having an argument you crazy
152 thing is you want to be right!!! But it just sticks in his throat, he can't quite say it. But Bill's been
153 an honest man. The reason we had the argument is I want to be right. Let me tell you what:
154 before God, I don't want to just be forgiven. I want to be right. I want to be right. Right is better
155 than forgiven. Forgiven is wonderful! But right is even better. And when I stand before God
156 today, I stand before Him not just my sins are washed away, though they are. But there's a
157 second part to the story; I have a righteousness that is not my own. And it commends me to God
158 and it makes me acceptable in His sight and He is delighted and welcomes even me into His
159 presence. For the righteousness of Christ. That's good news. That's the gospel. That's the gospel.

160 You know what, as my heart started to grab hold of that, it is still changing my life. It is
161 changing the way that I approach God. It has made such a difference in my heart. I struggled for
162 so long not to misread this emotionally. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as
163 righteousness. Notice the word "credited." That's like a banking term isn't it? You know when I
164 got married, my wife discovered a whole lot of things about me. And one unpleasant surprise she
165 came back with is that I can't add. Well, I can for a short period of time, but eventually my
166 abilities give out and I lose where I am. The way that I would handle my bank accounts before
167 we were married is I would just wait until they got into such a big mucky mess, then I would
168 change banks. And let all the checks clear and then whatever they said I had owed, I'd go back
169 and give them or take. Actually it worked to our benefit. She was absolutely surprised when we
170 got a \$400 credit in a bank that I didn't even remember I'd left. So it was like Christmas in the
171 middle of August. It was great. On one hand, but on the other hand, a little bell went off in her
172 head. Watch him like a hawk. And she was right. Now when I'm like that with a bank, I'll tell
173 you, (I'm not proud of this) but on occasion I get back those little notices that said, "NSF." You
174 ever had one of those? "Insufficient funds." Now what is the deal with the bank? Since you
175 don't have enough money, we're going to charge you some more. Have you figured that one out?
176 Wait, wait, wait!! I'm already in the hole!! I don't need any help, you know? But that's what they
177 would do. They would help me out by digging that hole just a little bit deeper and taking away
178 what I didn't have.

179 Let's imagine that I would go to the bank and say, look guys. I got confused and yes, I
180 bounced 70 checks. But if you charge me \$15 a piece, I'll never recover. Right? And let's say if
181 they just took pity on me and said, OK, we'll forgive the debt. What's in my bank account at the
182 point? Zero and I'm tickled to death. Right? I owe them nothing. That's forgiveness. But it's not
183 credited righteousness. You know what righteousness is? It's all the money of Jesus' merit in my

184 bank account. It is His positive account credited to mine so that I have the riches of a
185 righteousness that I've never earned credited to my account legally as I stand before God. Now
186 the reason I keep saying "legally" is that's not a quibble. Because I still struggle in sin, don't I?
187 And God chastises me for that and He brings me along and He works with me in life, but He
188 always works with me as if I am His child. Why? Because I am righteous in Jesus. I am righteous
189 in Jesus. He knows my struggles. He knows my struggles. But He doesn't deal with me according
190 to them. He deals with me out of the righteousness of Christ. Golly. You talk about something
191 that will set your heart free. You know I started talking about this and it started making a
192 difference in my life. And that's what we mean by passive righteousness. This is a righteousness
193 that I receive credited to my account and I didn't earn it. I was passive. Jesus earned it for me. I
194 receive it by faith.

195 What's the effect of that? Golly. One of the effects of that is that I have a new gospel to
196 preach. There was a new joy in my life. Why? You know, as I first came to Christ, all I could talk
197 about really was the forgiveness that got me heaven as a free gift. But after you've been a
198 Christian for about ten years, you know, telling that story that happened in 1970 in my life,
199 December 12, 1970, that's a long time ago. And that gets dimmer and dimmer. Now I have a new
200 story. Today I have a relationship with God, by faith; a gift of His grace based on the
201 righteousness of Christ. Heaven is a free gift and I will always rejoice in that. But I've got some
202 good news for you. Your relationship with God today is also a free gift based on the
203 righteousness of Christ received by faith and there's some joy in that. So you don't have to talk
204 only about what happened to you at your justification, but there's an update every day as a fresh
205 installment of that faith that grabs hold of the finished work of Christ comes into your life. And
206 you can talk about what Jesus did to you this week. He forgave this sinner this week and He gave
207 him His righteousness. Right?

208 I'll tell you it's changed the way my testimony sounds to people. I think my testimony
209 had begun to sound a little like this: "You know, I used to be as screwed up as you are. I did. I
210 mean, I was a real mess, but then I found Jesus. And if you'd like to be as good as I am, you can
211 find Him too." Now I never would say that, but that kind of smell was given off by some of my
212 testimony. I have a new testimony now. Jesus still saves sinners; by faith. He still gives the
213 unworthy His righteousness. And so I can go to someone not as a finished product but as a fellow
214 who is on the way with them and say, would you come with me again today to a God who gives
215 righteousness for faith in Christ? And invite them to come along with me. And that sounds a lot
216 better to them than someone who's got it fixed and is all together and is trying to remake them in
217 his own image, God forbid.

218 Well, one of the things that this has done is to restore my joy. Let's look at Philippians 3.

219 There's a connection between joy and this passive righteousness; and Philippians 3, I think,
220 makes it really clear. Paul starts off, **"Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It's no trouble**
221 **for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for**
222 **those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the**
223 **circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put**
224 **no confidence in the flesh."** ^{Philippians 3:1-3} Paul in some ways says that his willingness to trust in
225 Christ alone was the source of his joy. Skip down to verse 7 and you'll see as he continue this
226 argument. Look at what he says, **"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the**
227 **sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing**
228 **greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider**
229 **them rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in Him..."** Notice: **"not having a**
230 **righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in**
231 **Christ— the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."** ^{Philippians 3:7-9} And that's the
232 source of Paul's joy. By the way, it's also the source of Paul's changed life. Look at what follows
233 that: "I want to know Christ". You see this type of righteousness that we receive is not a
234 righteousness that just turns us loose and says go, do whatever you want. It is a righteousness that
235 motivates me to know Christ, to love Him, to love others. I want to know Christ and the power of
236 His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, of faith that is powerful enough
237 to even allow us to suffer if need be for Christ. Becoming like Him in His death and so somehow
238 to attain to the resurrection from the dead. **"Being found in Him..."** Says verse 9, **"not having a**
239 **righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in**
240 **Christ— the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith"**. ^{Philippians 3:9} This is passive
241 righteousness.

242 **B. Active Righteousness: Necessary, but not sufficient grounds for assurance**

243 Now, by the way, we need an active righteousness. I don't want you to mistake me. Let
244 me give you an example. You're driving down highway 309 out here, as some people were this
245 morning at 80 miles an hour, and a cop pulls you over. You can plead that you are justified in
246 Jesus all you want, but you're getting the ticket. You see I think part of what seduces us is that
247 that's the way the world works, isn't it? I have to have an active righteousness before the state. I
248 have to keep the laws. Whether you are a Christian or not, right? I need that with my wife. I need
249 it in society. You know, if I show up without any clothes on, people avoid me. I've disobeyed a
250 social taboo. You stay away from guys like that, don't you? I have to keep those laws. I have to
251 have an active righteousness. I have to have it before the state. I have to have it in society. I have
252 to have it in my family. I have to have it at work. If you don't go to work and they call and you

253 say, "Righteous in Jesus." They say, "That's fine, no pay check." And that's the way our
254 relationships work in this life. And you need that active righteousness. And the Bible encourages
255 that. You need to be the best citizen you can be. You need to be the best worker, husband, wife,
256 parent, child, citizen, elder, congregation member, all the relationships of authority and structure;
257 you need to do the best you can in each one of them. But when you stand before God, you stand
258 before Him in a righteousness that is not your own. And so you have to separate the two. You
259 have to remember that before God I stand in a passive righteousness. Before the world I do need
260 an active righteousness to survive. So I need an active righteousness in this life. I have to have it.
261 I want to be paid. I don't want tickets.

262 What's the relationship between these two? By the way there is a relationship. What we
263 would say is that it is my passive righteousness in Christ before God that really drives me to new
264 active obedience. There is a relationship. But I need to keep my conscience before God focused
265 not just on what I am able to do, but on what Christ has done for me. Now does God sometimes
266 point out sins in my life that I need to take care of? Absolutely. Hebrews talks about that, doesn't
267 it, in Chapter 12, and that's important. But I think that what John Murray said in *Redemption*
268 *Accomplished and Applied*² was very helpful. It would be a terrible mistake to confuse the
269 chastisement that comes to a beloved son with the punishment of a sinner that came to Christ.
270 Those two things are not equal. God chastises me and moves me forward into acts of
271 righteousness because I have the righteousness of Christ, because I am His son. There's no
272 disconnect between those two things. But my conscience before God needs to be settled not just
273 in what I am able to do, though that is an evidence of that righteousness in my life. And it's an
274 important evidence. But it is not enough for a ground of assurance. What assures the sinner's
275 heart before God? Not the fact that I did better. The thing that assures my heart before God is that
276 Jesus died for my sins and gave me a righteousness not my own. And now my heart can rest.
277 Now my heart can find some joy.

278 **IV. THE FAITH FOUNDATION FOR REAL CHANGE**

279 **A. Confidence from faith equips you to be honest**

280 And now, by the way, my heart can be honest. I'll tell you, I think the church really
281 struggles with honesty, big time. I think it is a real problem in our churches. Let me try an
282 experiment with you. Have you ever asked anybody to go to church with you or seen someone

²John Murray. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI, 1955.)

283 who used to go to church and they quit after a while and you asked them, “Why don’t you go to
284 church any more?” and see if you can help me fill in the blank. “Yeah, I used to go to church but
285 I stopped. You know, churches are filled with nothing but... (audience: ‘hypocrites’).” I’ve asked
286 that question all over the place. I’ve never had another response from honest people other than
287 “hypocrites.” Now look, the world is not who I live before. But when you have that degree of
288 unanimity about something, maybe we ought to listen. I think it points up to the fact that maybe
289 the church has a problem with honesty. Where does that come from? Look, if my conscience
290 before God is weakened by the fact that I must rely on what I can do this week to make myself
291 approved by God during the week, I can’t look at my sin. I have a stake now in not seeing it. It is
292 to my benefit not to be honest. It’s too threatening. It means too much. It’s the righteousness of
293 Christ credited to my account that frees me to be honest about my struggle and to not be crushed
294 by it. To know that even though I struggle with sin, God is still with me. That even though I
295 struggle and I’m making slow progress, and sometimes no progress at times, that God has not
296 abandoned me because that’s not the whole story. I have a righteousness that is not my own.
297 Unless I hold on to that, honesty is just too hard. It’s too frightening. And I have to take care of
298 that in different ways. I have to devalue God’s holiness. Another thing I do is I become
299 depressed. I look at my sin and I get depressed over it. I get what I call “defensively depressed.”
300 This is depressed so that nobody can say anything about it. You know what I’m saying? You’re
301 depressed so nobody can say anything because it’ll make you feel so bad you might do something
302 crazy. So everybody just has to be quiet.

303 How can I be honest? How can there be an honesty in my life and not just a flesh
304 confidence where I take some type of joy in what I am able to do? It’s only by the righteousness
305 of Christ there’s going to be some honesty in my life. And I tell you the church needs it. The
306 church needs it desperately. What a different place it would be for the church to be a place where
307 sinners gather to receive a righteousness not their own and lives were changed deeply by it from
308 the inside out. That would be a very different place than some of the congregations I’ve even led.
309 I need the righteousness of Christ to make me confident enough to be honest about my sin-- so I
310 can make some progress with it. It doesn’t crush me. God doesn’t abandon me but He moves me
311 forward through it.

312 **B. The present value of the blood of Christ: We are perfect forever!**

313 I would like to look at Hebrews chapter 14 with you briefly. Let’s try Hebrews 10, verse
314 14. I found this verse and I’ve actually written it and put it on my desk. **“Because by one
315 sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”** ^{Hebrews 10:14} One
316 sacrifice has made me... What? ...perfect forever; righteous. And who is made perfect forever?

317 Notice the rest of the verse: “He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy”. You
318 see they do go together. That holiness is being worked out in my life. But it’s worked out as a
319 son. It’s worked out as someone who has a righteousness not my own. It’s worked out by
320 someone who can be honest about their sin; not proud of it, but honest enough to see it and
321 forsake it because I have a righteousness that is not my own.

322 Let’s close together in prayer. Father, I want to thank you that You give us a
323 righteousness that comes from You, that we receive by faith a righteousness that makes us
324 perfect forever as we trust in Christ alone; a righteousness that can daily cleanse my conscience
325 and make me confident before You so that I walk with You and my relationship with You
326 changes my life. Father, I know there may be folks here today whose consciences have been so
327 bruised by their failures that they have lost sight of the perfect sacrifice of Christ. They have lost
328 sight of their righteousness that comes from God. I ask that You’d restore their joy by turning
329 their eyes not to their promises and not to their efforts to do better but first to Jesus who gives us
330 righteousness as a free gift. And Father we pray that from that righteousness would flow new
331 obedience and new joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus and for His sake. Amen.



2. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”